

Ed- I should have made a copy for you. would you please return this? Thanks, HCL

3/28/70

Mr. E.J. Albright
313 West North Ave.,
Chicago, Ill. 60610

Dear Mr. Albright,

Thanks for your letter of the 21st, postmarked the 24th, which arrived today. I appreciate the effort it reflects.

The sentence that interests me most is this one:

"Skolnick states that he did not use any of your material and that he received the material from another source". This is the kind of language I have become accustomed to in the hours I have spent on the fictions of the Warren Commission and the lies of the FBI.

Skolnick is, to his own knowledge, a liar on both counts. Where he got the material is unrelated to whose material it is. I told you when you phoned it had to have come with a friend who helped me. That does not make it any less mine and it is incorporated in a copyrighted book -mine.

The fact is I have been working on the Vallee thing since the winter of 1966-7 when, in January 1967, as I now recall, I got a tip while in Chicago. It took much effort to get it to the point at which for no constructive purpose, Skolnick stole it. It was not alone my effort and that of this friend but also the effort of others. And it involved some cost. If one were to consider the time as a cost, then the cost was considerable.

When I asked this friend, then living in Chicago, to help, he did, and he got for me Vallee's criminal record. Although I would not insist this is my material, the fact is this friend knew nothing about any of this until I asked him to do this work for me and he did do this work expressly for the writing in which it is incorporated. None of the rest originated with anyone in Chicago.

The fact is Skolnick and he had a phone conversation several weeks ago, as I told you. I do not know what transpired, but I assume Skolnick was told he'd have to have my assent, for this friend, who could ill afford it, phoned to tell me he had spoken to Skolnick and Skolnick would phone me that night. I stayed up several nights and I have never heard from him. He did not tell me Skolnick was going to use any of my stuff and I did not expect it. The fact is, I have had fairly extensive correspondence with the same friend opposing out-of-context, minor use of such material in the underground press or in any minor, unpaid way.

This friend is one of several I asked to try and speak to Mrs. Bolden for me when she did not respond to my letters. I have no way of knowing, but I presume his knowledge of the Bolden matter is from my work, of which he has a copy, with my permission, aside from what I told him so he could undertake this. Ed DeMar will tell you when he spoke to me my initial feeling was that Bolden should be left alone. The last thing that could under any circumstance serve any kind of legitimate purpose, any constructive end, was publicizing him now. Unless the entire thing was a fabrication, he has to be afraid, especially after such cheap, self-serving, sensationalized use. You may, if you so desire, tell Skolnick for me that it was bad enough to be a crook, worse to be a liar on top of it, and if the likes of him are to cleanse the courts, God help Chicago. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg